

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph #42 with the following amended paragraph:

“Another improvement has been made to the prior art. The application 130 on the first computer system 110 can specify what data conversions are to be performed by the interface between systems. Since the data transfers between systems is typically on a (blocked/buffered) record basis, this data conversion can be selected on a per field basis, and is performed on each selected field in each record transferred. Thus, some fields can be converted automatically from 36-bit integers to 32 bit integers (and potentially reversing the "endian" for the integers at the same time), while other fields can be converted from 9-bit ASCII to 8-bit ASCII.”

Please replace paragraph #105 with the following amended paragraph:

“GFIP's ECM 170 component provides the GCOS 8 user application with the API defined in the Section entitled "EIS GCOS 8 Cobol-85 APT". ECM 170 manages the Fast-ETL connections established by an application, creates and responds to records with the record-type codes defined herein below, and uses the services of Record Manager 172 to block records into buffers and unblock records from buffers.”